



## RGV/Deep S. Texas Cold and Wintry Precipitation Webinar

2 PM CT

Thursday January 20, 2022

What's Changed: Focus on Wind Chill and Wintry Precipitation  
Next Briefing: Follow-up Email or Slides into January 21, 2022

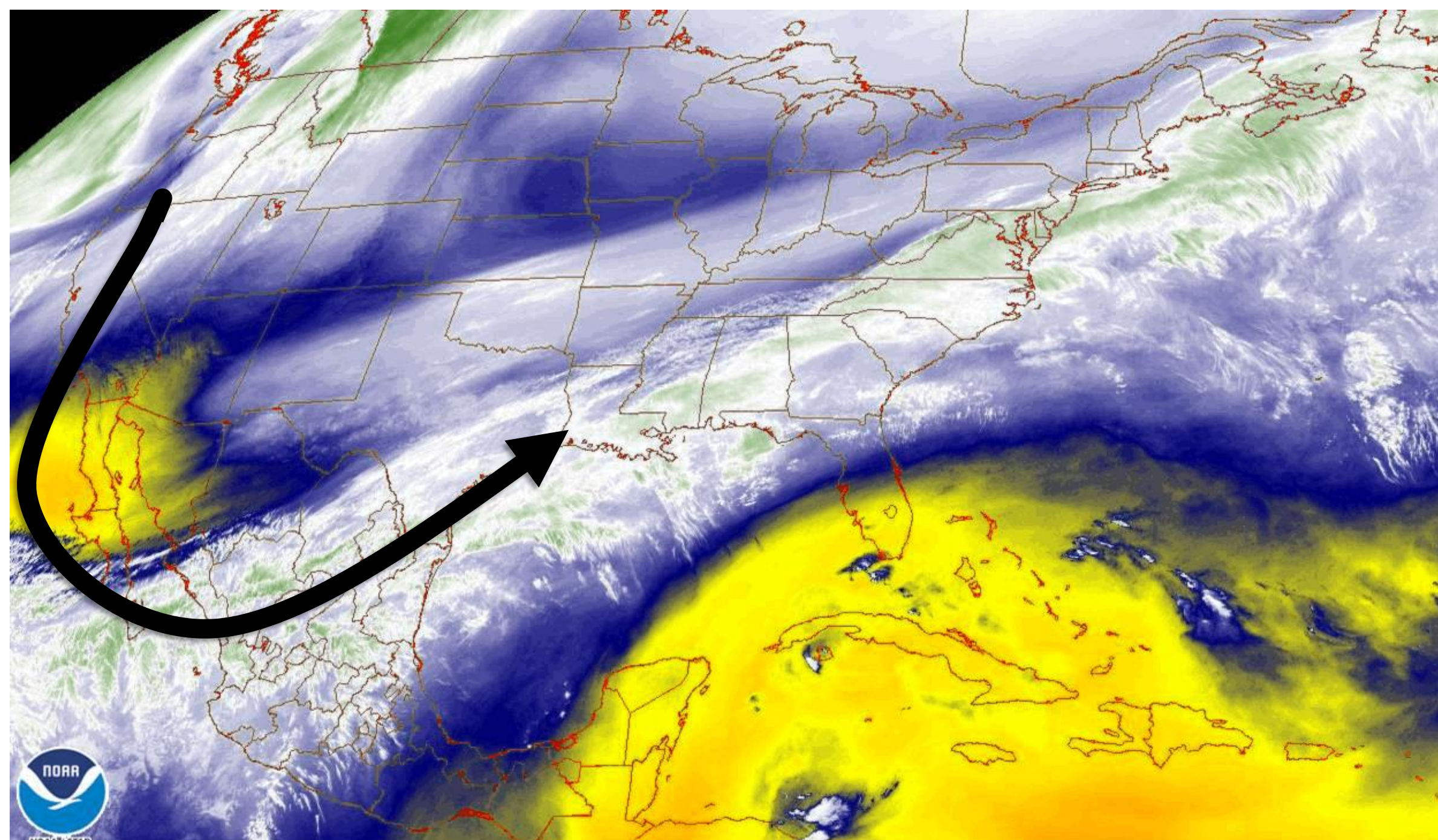
*Disclaimer: The information contained within is time-sensitive. Do not use after 5 AM CST Jan. 21.*



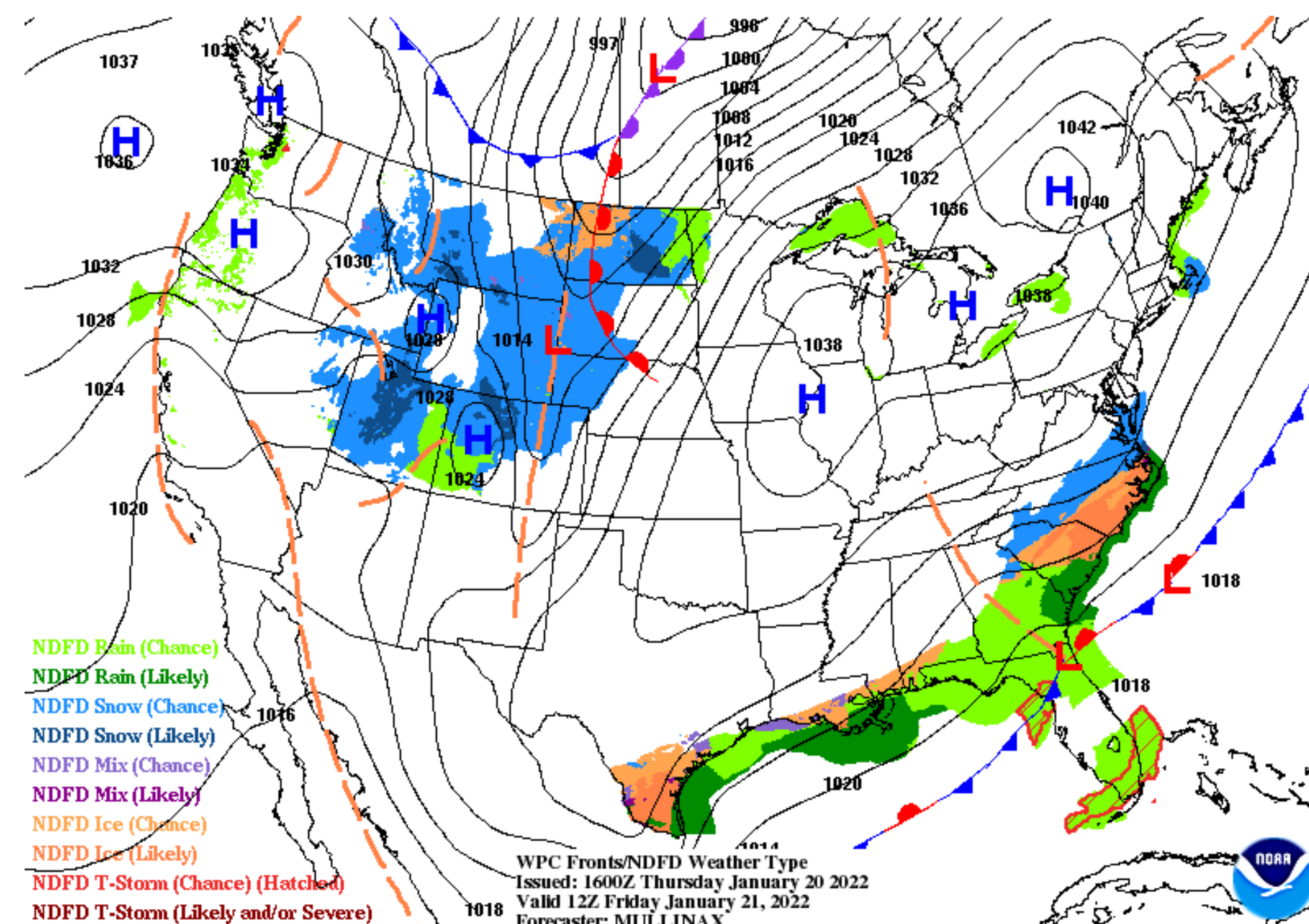


# Overview

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022



20 Jan 2022 17:21Z NOAA/NESDIS/STAR GOES-East Band 09



Cold air will continue to surge across the Rio Grande Valley and Deep S. Texas Ranch Country through early Friday. An upper level disturbance (black arrow, left) will allow rain to develop later this (Thursday) evening. The rain will likely change to a wintry mix of sleet and ice across locations north of the Valley, and mix with or possibly change to ice and sleet across parts of the populated Valley toward daybreak Friday, continuing through mid morning. Precipitation should change back to rain before ending, across the ranch country before noon, and the Valley by early to mid afternoon.





# Bottom Lines

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

- **“Sharp Change”**: “Feels like” temperatures in the low to mid 30s, dropping below freezing by sunset for most
- Feels Like Temperatures falling **to between 20 and 25 overnight Thursday**, continuing **below 30** through at least noon Friday. Only rising to 29 to 34 in afternoon.
- **Wintry precipitation, ranch country**: A mix of ice (rain freezing on contact) and sleet (melted snow that refreezes before reaching ground) expected to develop across the Rio Grande Plains, Brush Country, and Brooks/Kenedy/northern Hidalgo/inland Willacy **around midnight and continue through mid morning Friday**. **Light snow (minimal accumulation)** possible in northern Zapata and northern Jim Hogg.
- **Wintry precipitation, populated RGV**: A likelihood for **icing, perhaps mixed with sleet**, extending into traditional cold drainage locations **between 5 AM and 9 AM Friday**
- **Gale Warnings have been replaced by Small Craft Advisories** for the Gulf of Mexico and Laguna Madre for difficult winds and seas



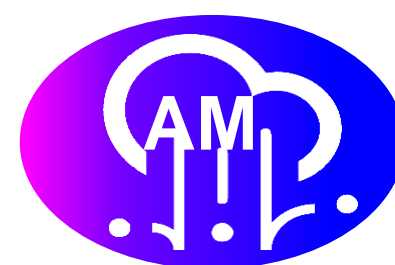
# Timeline

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022



## Rest of Thursday

- **Sharply Colder; “Feels Like” Temperatures in the low to mid 30s from 3 PM through sunset**
- **Patchy light rain or drizzle lower Valley; possible slick roads from oil build up**



## Friday

- **Wintry precipitation ending/tapering off by 9 AM but potentially as late as noon (east)**
- **Feels like temperatures rising slowly, in the 20s through noon and into the low to mid 30s during afternoon**
- **Actual temperatures struggling to 38 to 41 by afternoon, populated RGV through Brush Country**



Through 10 PM



11 PM – Daybreak Fri.



## Thursday Night

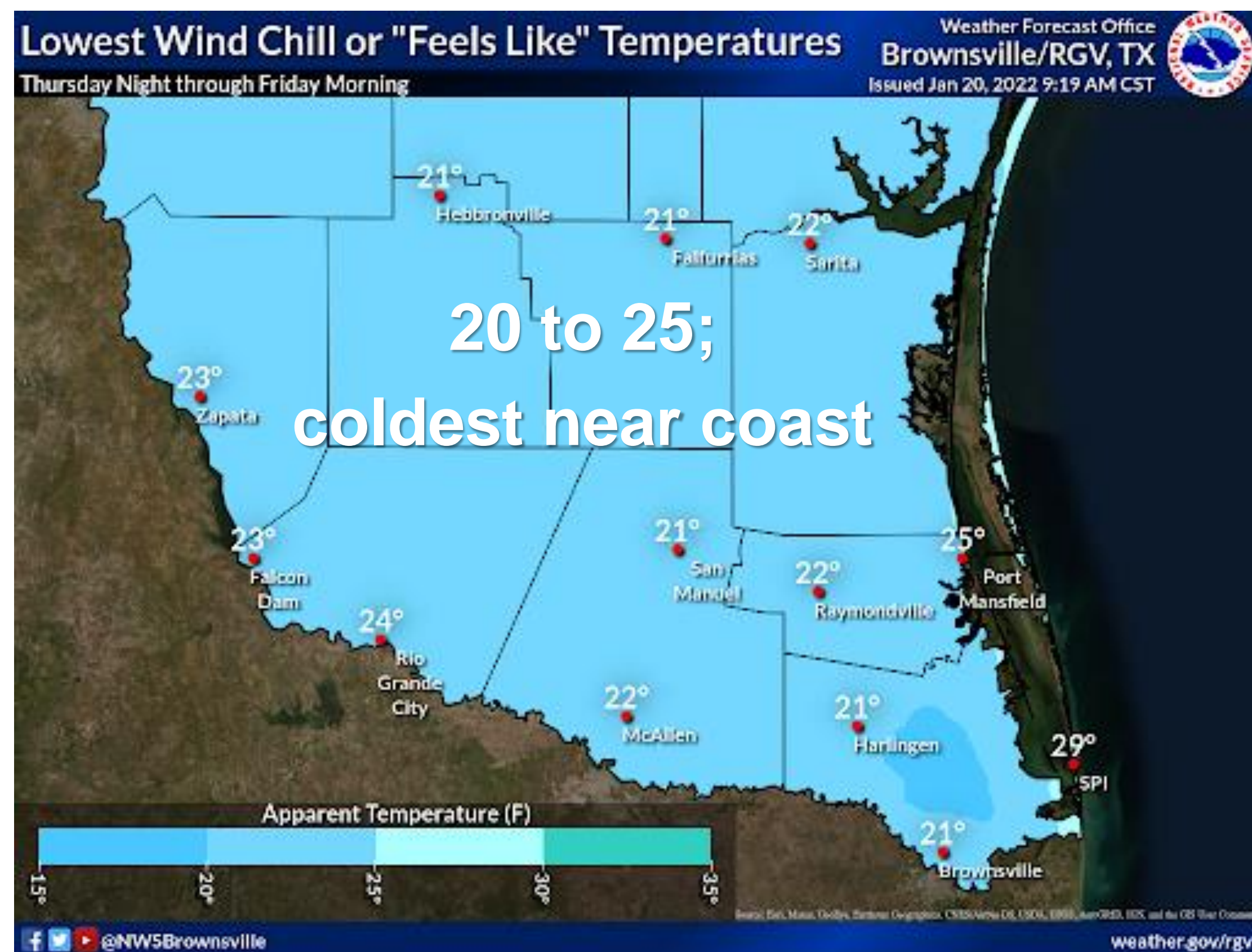
- **Cold rain developing by 9-10 PM; “feels like” temperatures falling below 30**
- **Rain mixing with/changing to ice/sleet across Zapata-Kenedy County by 11 PM-Midnight. Snow may mix in northern Jim Hogg/Zapata after 3 AM**
- **Light icing/sleet likely into the populated Rio Grande Valley, mainly along/north of IH-2, between 5 and 9 AM Friday.**
- **“Feels Like” temperatures dropping to 20-25 after midnight.**





# Coldest “Feels Like” Temperatures on Friday

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022



Friday(Jan 21), 6 AM to 9 AM



Friday (Jan 21) Noon

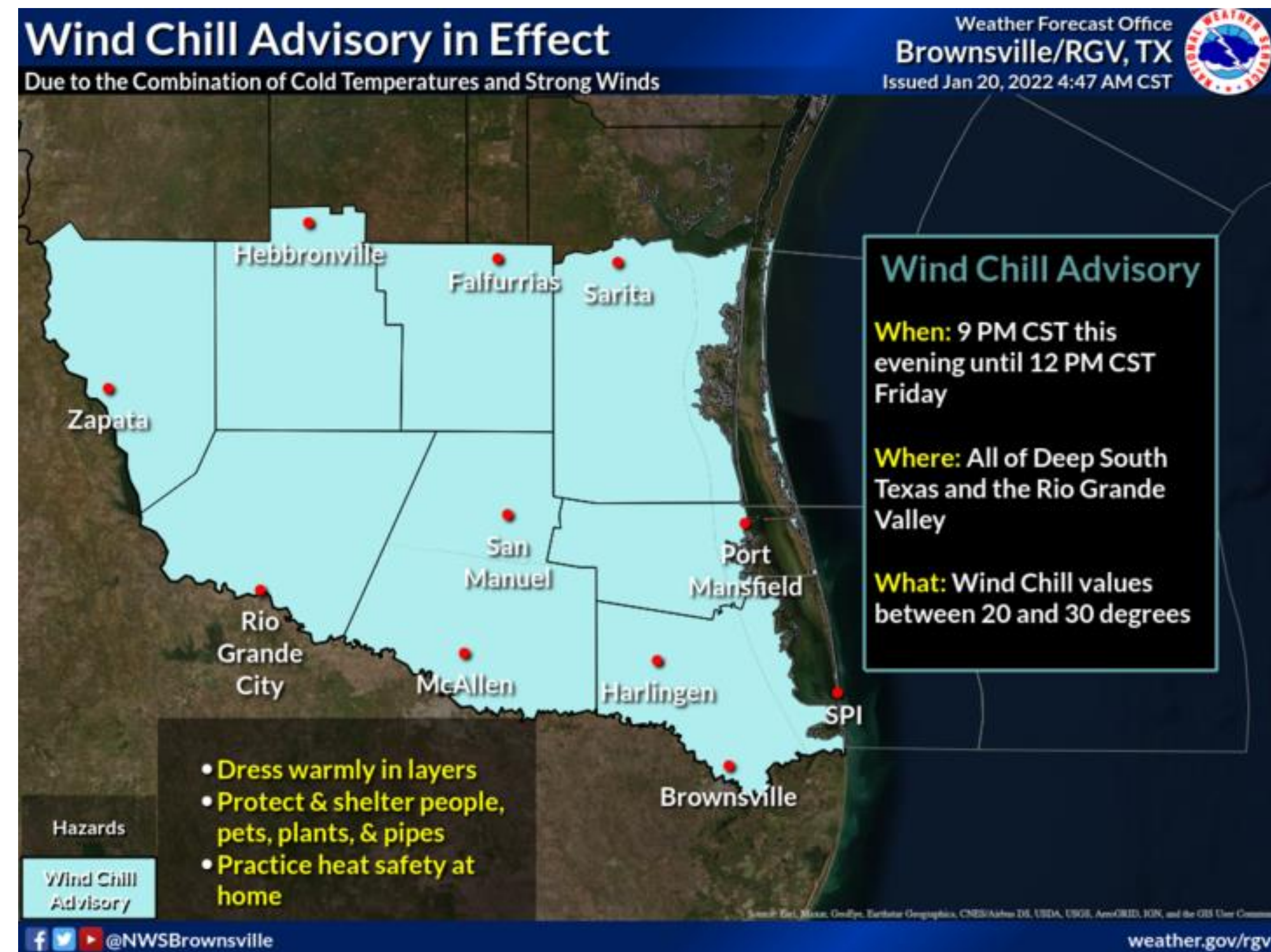
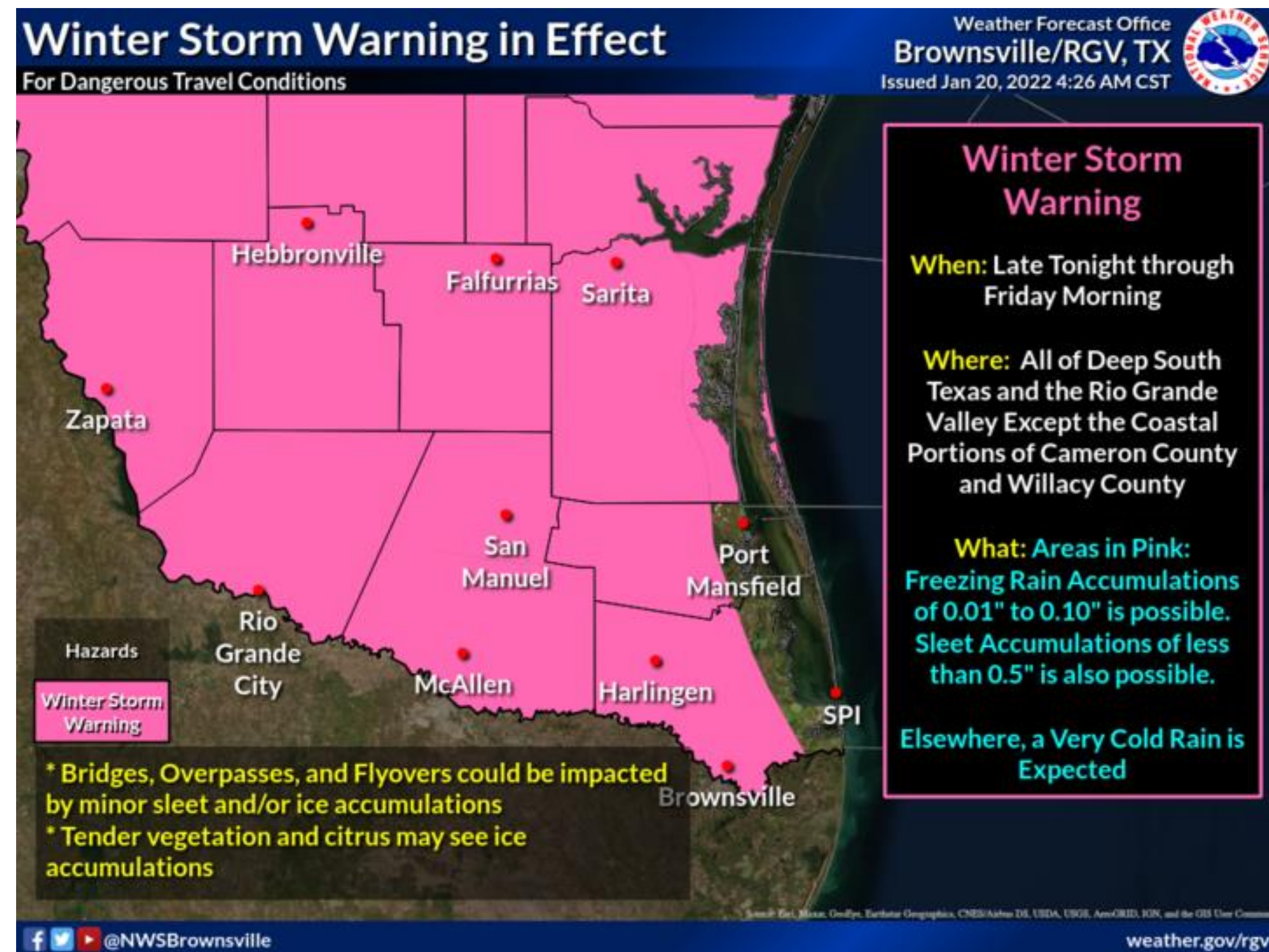
Will only **rise to 30 to 35** during afternoon for populated RGV to Brooks/Jim Hogg/Kenedy Ranchlands  
May reach **40 or higher** across parts of **Starr/Zapata/southern Jim Hogg** (higher cloud bases)





# Critical Winter Warnings and Advisories

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

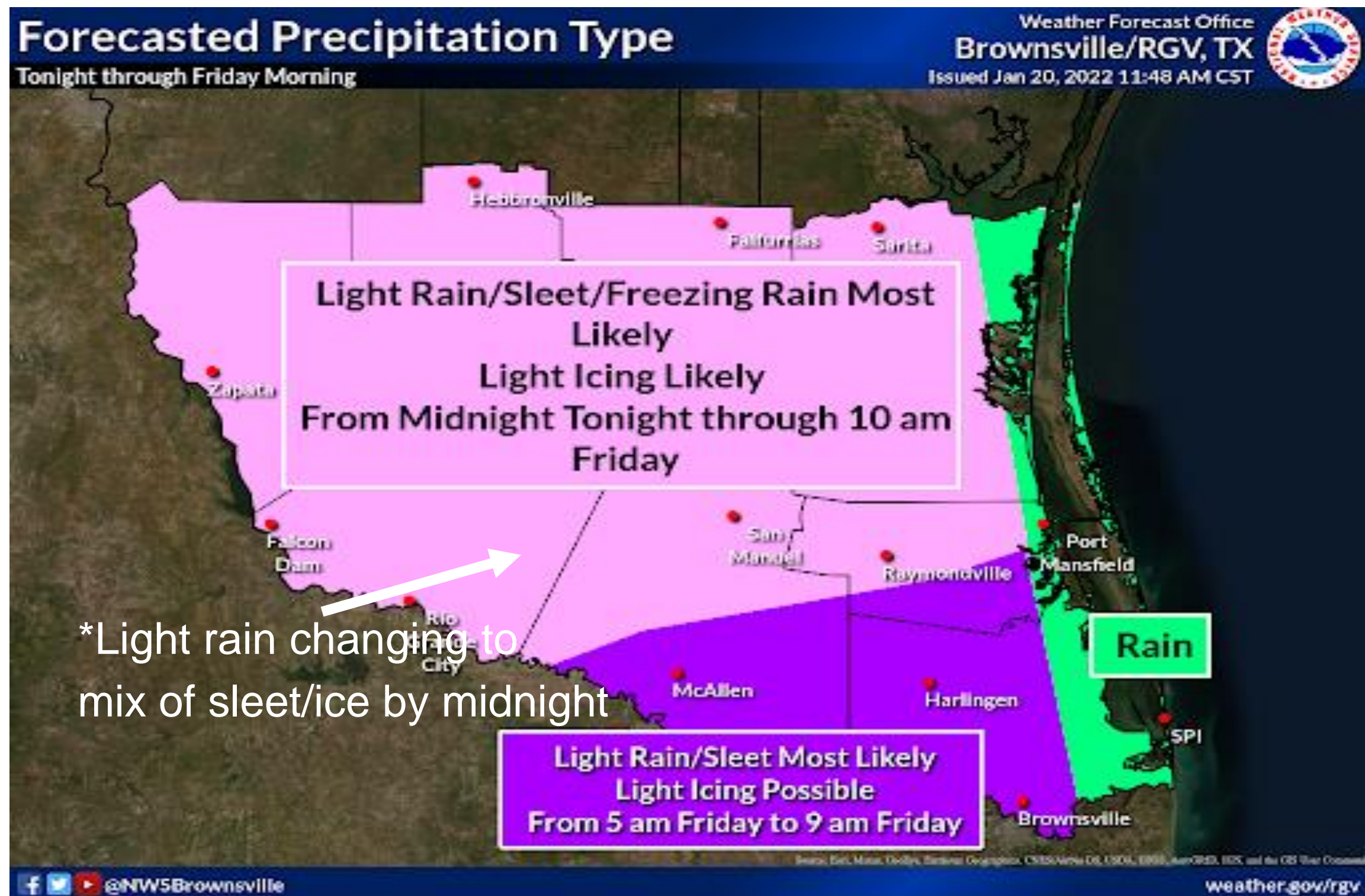






# Wintry Precipitation

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022



- Zapata to Kenedy; northern Starr and northern Hidalgo (pink):** Best opportunity for ice accretion (grass/trees/power lines/elevated roads) and sleet.
  - **Confidence:** *High*. **Timing:** **Midnight-9 AM**. **Buffer:** As early as 11 PM Jan. 20 through 11 AM Jan. 21
- Rio Grande Valley (purple):** Icing and some sleet likely. Most likely in “cold drainage” locations including southern Starr, Weslaco to N. Harlingen, Hidalgo north of Edinburg/Alton
  - **Confidence:** *Medium*. **Timing:** **5 AM to 9 AM**. **Buffer:** 3 AM to 11 AM (Fri, Jan. 21)

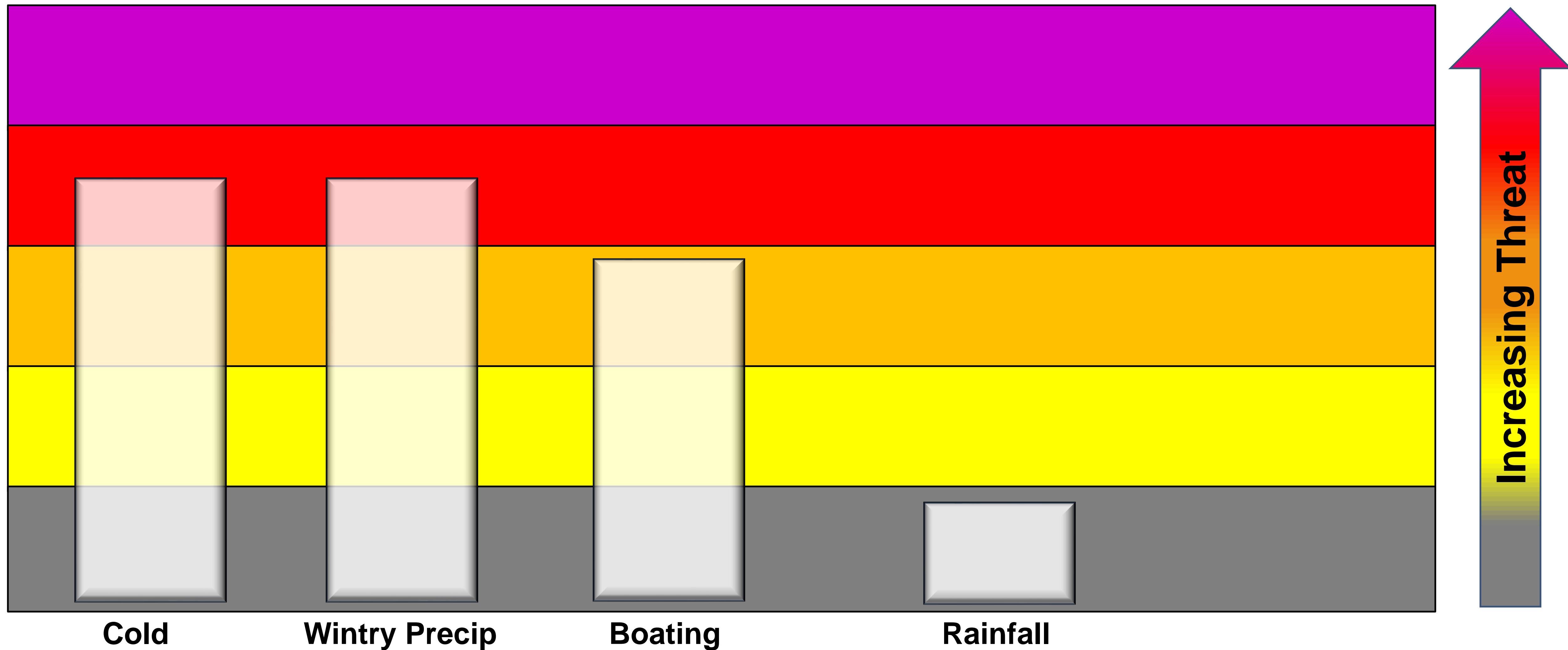




# Threat Levels

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

**Wintry precipitation threat levels have increased for Friday morning (after midnight).**







# Key Take Aways

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

- This will be the **coldest period of the 2021/2022** winter so far, but will **NOT** be a repeat of February 14-20, 2021
- **People, pets, and plants should be prepared to be protected** from the cold, continuing through early Saturday
- **Motorists planning travel** that may include elevated roads/bridges should postpone from Thursday midnight through midday Friday, especially across areas ***north and west of the populated RGV.***
- **Motorists should remain alert** to light icing on elevated road surfaces ***across the populated RGV*** between 5 and 9 AM Friday (Jan. 21)
- **Minor power outages are likely**, mainly due to heavy use of heating and some stress on the grid, but possible from power line icing along/north of IH-2. This will **NOT** be a repeat of February 2021





# Safety Information: Heaters

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-22 (morning), 2022



NWS Brownsville, TX

## Space Heater Safety Tips



- Place the heater on a hard, level, nonflammable surface, such as a ceramic tile floor.
- Plug your heater directly into a wall outlet, **DO NOT** use extension cords
- Make sure the heater is at least three feet away from any flammable materials, children and pets.
- Verify your space heater has tip over protection and is UL approval
- **NEVER** leave a space heater on when you go to sleep or leave a room
- **DO NOT** use portable propane space heaters indoors or in any confined space unless they are specifically designed for indoor use.

**\*Space heaters account for ~85% of all home heating deaths and nearly half of all home heating fires according to the National Fire Protection Agency**





# Safety Information: Dressing for Cold

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022



- Rest of Thursday, Jan. 20 (Day): **Cold**
- Thursday Night through Saturday Morning, Jan. 20 (late) through early Jan. 22: **Cold**
- Saturday: **Chilly**





# Safety Information: Hypothermia

Tropical Storm Nicholas

## Warning Signs of Hypothermia



**Confusion**



**Shivering**



**Difficulty  
Speaking**

ZZZ...



**Sleepiness**



**Stiff  
Muscles**

[weather.gov/cold](https://weather.gov/cold)







# Safety Information: Driving

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

## freezing drizzle

The fine layer of ice that forms during freezing drizzle may be hard to notice on the road, but it is one of winter's most dangerous types of weather.

### safety tips

- Slow down
- Don't use cruise control
- Leave plenty of distance between you and other vehicles

## "Sneaky" Winter Hazards

The winter season brings many weather events that can "sneak" up on you. These are weather hazards that cause big impacts and make travel difficult without making big news.



## Glaze Ice

## rain with a temperature near freezing

Ice can form on roads and lead to dangerous travel when the air temperature or road temperature drops below freezing.

### safety tips

- Slow down
- Don't use cruise control
- Leave plenty of distance between you and other vehicles

## "Sneaky" Winter Hazards

The winter season brings many weather events that can "sneak" up on you. These are weather hazards that cause big impacts and make travel difficult without making big news.



## Potential Icing Near Freezing





# Safety Information: Pets

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022



## Don't Forget Your Furry Friends!

Updated: 1 PM CST 20 January 2022

*NWS Brownsville, TX*



### Tonight

**Temps: 29-34°F**

**"Feels Like": 20-25**

**Precip: 90%**

**Wind: N 10-25mph**

## Dangerous Weather!

**For any pets left outside!**



### Friday

**Highs: 38-45°F**

**"Feels Like: 25-35**

**Precip: 70-90% AM**

**Wind: N 10-20mph**



**\*PLEASE\* provide nourishing food, fresh water, and protection (sturdy shelter with blankets or straw) for outdoor pets!**





# Safety Information: Pelicans

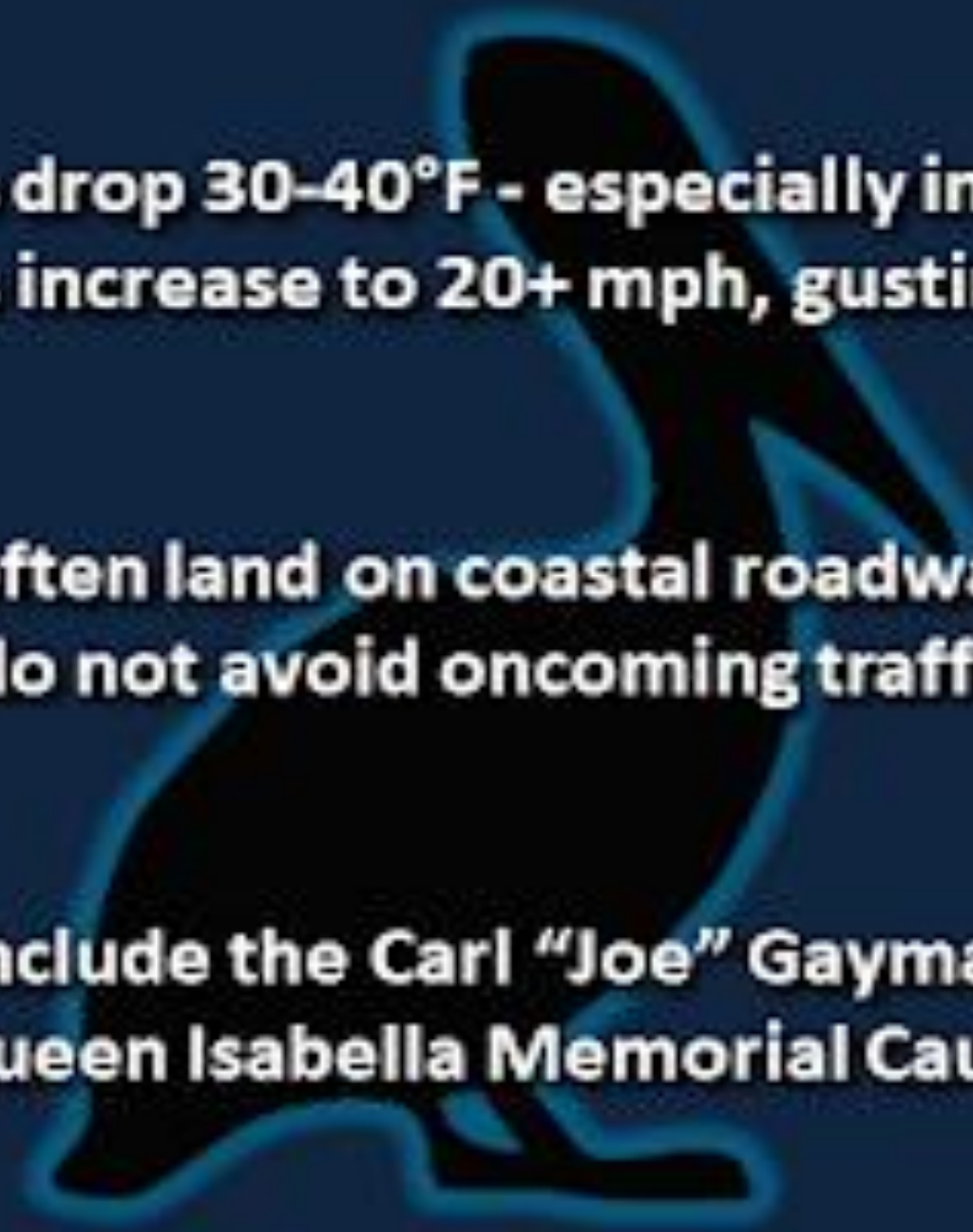
Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

## Watch for Pelicans

When temperatures drop 30-40°F - especially into the 40s and below  
and winds increase to 20+ mph, gusting 30+ mph

Pelicans will often land on coastal roadways and bridges  
and do not avoid oncoming traffic well

Favored landing areas include the Carl "Joe" Gayman bridge on HWY48 near  
Bahia Grande and the Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway to SPI on HYW100



National Weather Service  
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley



- **Timing: Beginning late afternoon Thursday**
- **Peaking Thursday night and Friday morning**
- **Could continue through Saturday morning, though winds will be lower**





# Safety Information: Sea Turtles

Cold and Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

## Watch for Sea Turtles

When coastal water temperatures drop drastically to 50-55°F and below

Sea turtles can become “cold-stunned” and float to the surface, unable to avoid watercraft, or wash up and become stranded along coastal shores

If you see any stranded or cold-stunned sea turtles, please contact the sea turtle emergency hotline at

**956-243-4361**



National Weather Service  
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley



- **Timing: Friday through Saturday morning**
- **Area of most concern: Lower Laguna Madre (Cameron County section)**
- **Increasing chance for impacts along immediate shoreline with colder air Friday/Friday night.**
- **This will NOT be a repeat of February 2021!**





## Next Briefing: Email Updates, As Necessary, into Jan. 21



**Web:** <https://weather.gov/rgv>



**Phone:** (956) 504-1432 x2



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